

*Patent Application Serial No. 10/568,416*

**REMARKS**

The claims are amended for clarity. New claim 7 is supported in the specification at page 3, line 27, reading, "holding members for holding the peripheral edges of the transparent first substrate." New claims 8 and 9 are supported in the paragraph starting at page 7, line 16, and claim 9 is further supported by Fig. 2. The new claims are patentable for the reasons below.

In response to the outstanding Office Action dated November 21, 2008:

(1-2) Claims 1, 2, 5, and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Furuhashi et al., US 2002/0000979. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner asserts that Furuhashi discloses holding members, but supplies no reference number for these asserted elements (see text spanning pages 2-3 in the Office Action). Instead, the Examiner only points out two paragraphs and one figure, which do not show any element resembling the Applicant's exemplary holding members 80-81, which are U-shaped clips.

There is only one element of Furuhashi which is, like the claimed holding member, in contact with both substrates 1 and 2 and also conductive: namely, the dabs of conductive paste 8CH and 8DH which "penetrate the adhesive materials 8C and 8D partially" (paragraph 0108). It is through these dabs of paste that the electrodes 5A and 5B are connected to the PCB 12 through leading wires 11A and 11B. The adhesive 8C and 8D is, apparently, an electrical insulator; otherwise the dabs of conductive paste 8CH

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and 8DH would not be needed. Therefore, only the dabs of conductive paste 8CH and 8DH could possibly anticipate the holding members.

Thus, the only candidate for the Applicant's claimed holding members, namely the dabs of paste, are not "holding the peripheral edges of the transparent first substrate" as claim 1 recites. It is clear from Furuhashi's Fig. 2 that the dabs are located in the interior, away from the peripheral edges, and therefore cannot "hold" them.

Furthermore, the Applicant does not see in the reference any "lead-out terminals ... formed on the peripheral edges of the first [upper] substrate," such as the middle paragraph of claim 1 recites. Furuhashi's substrate 1 has no lead-out terminals anywhere near the periphery.

(3) Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA). This rejection is respectfully traversed on the grounds that the Examiner is giving no weight to the features incorporated into dependent claim 3 from claim 1.

(4-5) Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Furuhashi in view of AAPA. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Fig. 2 of Furuhashi *already* shows a notch in element 8C, which most closely corresponds to notch 142 in AAPA Fig. 7.

(6) Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Furuhashi in view of Jacobsen, US 7,002,555.

Jacobsen's only "grooves" are those in the end plates 8, 8' shown in applied Fig. 1. These grooves perhaps would correspond most closely to the interior of the Applicant's

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U-shaped holding member 80, 81. Jacobsen discloses—if anything—the converse of what the Applicant claims.

The proposed motivation for combining the references, namely, "It would have been obvious ... to configure a position groove ... because such a modification would require only a mere addition of a groove," is respectfully traversed for being a logical tautology rather than an actual motivation, such as the rationales to support obviousness, listed as (A)-(G) in MPEP § 2141. With respect, the Examiner appears to reason: A is obvious because it is merely A.

**New Claims.** The new claims recite additional features that are not disclosed, or suggested, by the references.

Allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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*I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office (Fax No. (571-273-8300) on February 12, 2009.*

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